

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210842

NODIS

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ROK CRITICISM OF US ACTIONS

1. WE HAVE NOTICED CAMPAIGN IN ROK PRESS DENIGRATING US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA IN THE WAKE OF THE JSA INCIDENT. WE HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ALLEGEDLY INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREANS AND FOR ACCEPTING NK STATEMENTS AT FACE VALUE. FURTHER COMMENTS REFER TO DISSATISFACTION WITH OUR OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND APPEAR TO QUESTION THE FIRMNESS OF OUR POSITION.

2. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO BRING OUR ANNOYANCE WITH THIS TYPE OF CRITICISM TO THE DIRECT ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT PARK. SUCH COMMENTS IN A CONTROLLED PRESS DIRECTED TOWARD US EFFORTS IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRM, EFFECTIVE AND PROMPT ACTION WE TOOK ARE UNWARRANTED. IT IS PARTICULARLY ANNOYING CONSIDERING THAT WE WORKED HARD AND PUT IN A MASSIVE FORCE TO BACK UP THE COMMITMENT WE HAVE TO THE DEFENSE AGAINST THE NORTH. F-4'S, F-111'S, B-52'S AND A CARRIER TASK FORCE ARE NOT A SLAP ON THE WRIST BUT A CLEAR SIGNAL TO NORTH KOREA

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THAT PROVOCATION AND MILITARY ADVENTURES WILL NOT PAY. THIS

SHOULD BE OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO THE LONG-RUN SECURITY OF THE ROK. IT APPEARS TO US THAT PARK SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE BROAD-ER MEANING OF ALL THIS AND NOT NOW ALLOW HIS OFFICIALS TO MOUNT A CARPING CAMPAIGN.

3. AS YOU MAKE THE ABOVE POINTS TO PARK, YOU ARE TO BE FIRM AND TO REMIND HIM THAT HIS EARLIER ADVICE WAS TO AVOID MILITARY ACTION UNLESS NECESSARY AND TO DO EXACTLY WHAT WE DID IN THE JSA. LATER HIS MINISTERS WERE TELLING US THAT WE SHOULD SEEK ASSURANCES FROM THE NORTH AGAINST FUTURE INCIDENTS. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE INTEND TO DO, AS IS CLEAR FROM THE MESSAGE THAT IS TO BE DELIVERED AT THE NEXT MAC MEETING. WE ARE ALSO KEEPING THE MAJOR FORCES WE HAVE DEPLOYED IN PLACE FOR THE PRESENT AS FURTHER INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR PURPOSE.

4. WHATEVER POSITION WE NOW TAKE, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE OUR MOTIVES OR OUR ACTIONS SUBJECT TO DIRECTED CRITICISM IN A PRESS WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, PRINTS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT ORDERS. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT A BETTER REACTION THAN THAT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, ANTIAMERICAN, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS, SHOW OF FORCE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE210842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. HABIB:MDJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840089-2237
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760820/aaaaardu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK CRITICISM OF US ACTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, US, KS, KN
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006